**Treatment of Immigrants**

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Show the students the video, A 1946 film on Immigration - Reviews the history of immigration to the United States, on You Tube and read the passage out loud to assist with the activity below: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnmKpdfk9uA>

This information and more can be found on:

http://www.history.com/topics/u-s-immigration-before-1965

**IMMIGRATION IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY**

Another major wave of immigration occurred from around 1815 to 1865. The majority of these newcomers hailed from Northern and Western Europe. Approximately one-third came from Ireland, which experienced a massive famine in the mid-19th century. In the 1840s, almost half of America’s immigrants were from Ireland alone. Typically impoverished, these Irish immigrants settled near their point of arrival in cities along the East Coast. Between 1820 and 1930, some 4.5 million Irish migrated to the United States. Also in the 19th century, the United States received some 5 million German immigrants. Many of them journeyed to the present-day Midwest to buy farms or congregated in such cities as Milwaukee, St. Louis and Cincinnati. In the national census of 2000, more Americans claimed German ancestry than any other group.During the mid-1800s, a significant number of Asian immigrants settled in the United States. Lured by news of the [California](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/california) gold rush, some 25,000 Chinese had migrated there by the early 1850s.The influx of newcomers resulted in anti-immigrant sentiment among certain factions of America’s native-born, predominantly Anglo-Saxon Protestant population. The new arrivals were often seen as unwanted competition for jobs, while many Catholics–especially the Irish–experienced discrimination for their religious beliefs. In the 1850s, the anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic American Party (also called the Know-Nothings) tried to severely curb immigration, and even ran a candidate, former U.S. president [Millard Fillmore](http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/millard-fillmore) (1800-1874), in the presidential election of 1956.Following the Civil War, the United States experienced a depression in the 1870s that contributed to a slowdown in immigration

**EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION: 1880-1920** Between 1880 and 1920, a time of rapid industrialization and urbanization, America received more than 20 million immigrants. Beginning in the 1890s, the majority of arrivals were from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. In that decade alone, some 600,000 Italians migrated to America, and by 1920 more than 4 million had entered the United States. Jews from Eastern Europe fleeing religious persecution also arrived in large numbers; over 2 million entered the United States between 1880 and 1920.The peak year for admission of new immigrants was 1907, when approximately 1.3 million people entered the country legally. Within a decade, the outbreak of [World War I](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i) (1914-1918) caused a decline in immigration. In 1917, Congress enacted legislation requiring immigrants over 16 to pass a literacy test, and in the early 1920s immigration quotas were established. The Immigration Act of 1924 created a quota system that restricted entry to 2 percent of the total number of people of each nationality in America as of the 1890 national census–a system that favored immigrants from Western Europe–and prohibited immigrants from Asia**Compare and Contrast Chart: Name:**

**European and Asian Immigration (Late 1800s) Period:**

What was it like to be an immigrant to the United States around the turn of the century?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | European Immigrants | Similarities | Asian Immigrants |
| Push/Pull Factors |  |  |  |
| Immigration Station and Experience Entering the U.S. |  |  |  |
| Responses to New Immigrants |  |  |  |
| Founding Ideals Helped or Hurt |  |  |  |